

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 remain in the application with claims 1 and 3 having been amended hereby and claims 2 and 8 having been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1 and 8 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Claim 1 has been amended hereby to provide proper antecedent basis for the n-channel audio signal. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite that n is a positive integer greater than or equal to 1. Claim 8 has been cancelled.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is clear and definite in its recitation of the present invention and meets all requirements of 35 USC 112.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 4, and 8 under 35 USC 102(e), as being anticipated by Ogawa et al.

Claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended hereby to include claim 2 in its entirety. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 4 depends from

claim 1 and claim 8 has been cancelled.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 4 are patentably distinct over the cited reference.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al. in view of Inanaga et al.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1, which by reason of the inclusion of the allowable subject matter therein is thought to be patentably distinct over the cited references and, for at least those very same reasons, claims 5 and 6 are also submitted to be patentably distinct thereover.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al. in view of Yamada et al.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1, which by reason of the inclusion of the allowable subject matter of claim 2 is thought to be patentably distinct and, for at least those very same reasons, claim 7 is also thought to be patentably distinct.

Claim 3 has been placed in independent form by including therein claim 1 in its entirety.

Therefore, by reason of the inclusion of allowable subject matter in independent claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that only allowable claims remain in this

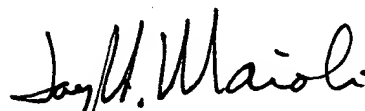
application.

Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited and it is respectfully submitted that this amendment raises no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search because only existing claims have been utilized in the amendments made hereby.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay H. Maioli
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JHM:gr